



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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### **State Officials Stock Boston's Jamaica Pond with Over 700 Fish** **Governor Patrick joins local students for annual rite of spring**

BOSTON – State wildlife officials and Boston school children ushered in the spring fishing season today, releasing 700 state hatchery-raised trout into the shallows of Jamaica Pond alongside Governor Deval Patrick.

Today's event, which also drew participation from Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Ian Bowles and Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Commissioner Mary Griffin, was part of an annual effort to stock about 500 Massachusetts lakes, rivers, reservoirs, streams and rivers with fish raised at hatcheries operated by the DFG's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW). Statewide this spring, DFW's stocking program, supported by fishing license revenue, is releasing 579,600 brook, brown, rainbow, and tiger trout raised at state hatcheries in Sandwich, Belchertown, Sunderland and Montague. DFW also raises salmon at its Palmer hatchery, and five broodstock salmon (averaging 10 to 15 pounds each) were also stocked at Jamaica Pond today.

"We have such wonderful natural resources here in Boston and across the Commonwealth," said Governor Patrick, "and I appreciate that investments made in these treasures are investments in our quality of life."

Fish stocked today at Jamaica Pond, a property of the city of Boston, included 400 rainbow, 100 brown, 100 brook, and 100 tiger trout. Tiger trout are a cross between a female brown trout and a male brook trout. Lending a hand to release fish into the pond were students and teachers from Boston's John F. Kennedy Elementary School and Mary Curley Middle School, and the Dorchester Youth Academy. Local legislators and Boston Parks and Recreation Commissioner Antonia Pollak also took part.

A natural pond believed to be tens of thousands of years old, Jamaica Pond is 60 acres in size and 60 feet deep and home to fish such as largemouth bass, yellow perch, and chain pickerel, as well as snapping turtles, crayfish, eels, and freshwater clams.

“What better way to get young people to fall in love with the great outdoors than by giving them a chance to put trout into a pond with their own hands?” Secretary Bowles said. “And what better place to do it than here at Jamaica Pond – a place that is truly an oasis for city dwellers thanks to superb management of the pond by the city of Boston and the parkway and surrounding parkland by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation.”

“I encourage people to follow Governor Patrick’s example by getting out to experience the great fishing and other outdoor opportunities Massachusetts offers,” Commissioner Griffin added. “Citizens of all ages and abilities can get started with the help of fishing courses and clinics and family fishing festivals run by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in locations around the state.”

A list of all trout-stocked waters in Massachusetts is available at [www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife), and DFW publishes weekly reports at the same web site each Friday detailing where fish were stocked in various ponds, lakes, and rivers around the Commonwealth.

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